

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 486.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 486—"yes"—Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571).

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marilyn Adams of Earlham, Iowa for her dedication to promoting farm safety and earning the Volvo for Life National Hometown Hero Award.

The Volvo for Life National Hometown Hero Award recognizes leaders in safety, the environment and quality of life. In addition to the award, Marilyn receives a Volvo vehicle of her choice and is able to trade-in for a new Volvo vehicle every three years. Marilyn dedicated the award to her son who passed away in a farm accident over two decades ago. To help prevent other farm accidents, Marilyn founded Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, which is a farm advocacy safety organization for children. It started as a local organization and grew to a national and international organization which has 137 chapters across the globe. Marilyn also received \$100,000 which she is putting into an endowment for Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

Marilyn's dedication to educating children and her commitment to preserving the lives of children in the farming community should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Marilyn Adams in the United States Congress and I wish her and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids the very best in the future.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE,
MANAGEMENT, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, with nearly 300 fires continuing to burn in California, it is clear we cannot afford to wait to deal with the enduring threat forest fires pose to our communities. That's why I rise in strong support of H.R. 5541, the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act.

Over the last decade, we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of devastating forest fires. Those fires have long lasting effects on our ecosystem, increasing the deadliness of mudslides, which destroy our homes, displace once vegetated areas with bare terrain, and disburse large quantities of pollutants across broad regions.

Nine million acres burned across the United States last year, and there is no indication that 2008 will be any different. Climate change and drought are creating longer and more intense fire seasons, while a century of fire containment has made the forests denser and more vulnerable to burning.

The increase in forest fires has led to skyrocketing costs for federal fire suppression efforts, which prevents the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Agency from adequately funding essential programs that will lessen the intensity of fires, reduce their frequency, and better protect the public. The FLAME Act would prevent future forest fires from devastating communities across the country and crippling federal land management agency budgets by creating an emergency national fund devoted solely to fighting such destructive fires. This fund will be separate from traditional funding for fire mitigation and prevention.

It's our responsibility to empower our nation's firefighters with the tools they need to effectively fight forest fires. I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation to better ensure that our citizens, environment, and ecosystem are safe from the dangers of forest fires.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF
CONGRESS TO THE FAMILIES OF
MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 295, which takes the initiative in extending the appreciation of Congress to both the members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

First, I want to commend the chief sponsor, Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida, for his great efforts in introducing this important bill.

As a former member of our United States Armed Forces, I want to personally convey my gratitude to Congressman BILIRAKIS and all of the co-sponsors for bringing this vital resolution forth. It is an example of the Congress' dedication to those serving our country around the world and our efforts to assist their families in various ways.

Mr. Speaker, with increased conflicts around the world needing our armed forces' attention, the amount of our active troops has increased exponentially. According to the Department of Defense (DOD), we currently have over 2 million personnel serving. Of that number, there are more than 700,000 households with at least one parent deployed on active military duty. While deployed, the remaining family provides much needed support to their military members through correspondence and packages. Yet, many times, these families do not have the resources to provide the full support they desire. Fortunately, the Department of Defense offers assistance through numerous programs. For example, the Military Homefront aids service members, whether active or retired, and their families with DOD Quality of Life programs. Even with the available pro-

grams, more programs are needed in order to provide for both the immediate and extended families of our current and past military personnel.

In response to this growing need, Congressman BILIRAKIS introduced H. Con. Res. 295 on February 13, 2008. This includes not only the support of the United States Armed Forces, but also support of their families through any physical and emotional ordeals that may arise as their loved ones devote their lives to their country. As the Representative for American Samoa, I realize the great importance of supporting our military families. The Samoan people take great pride in serving our nation and have shown it through our high recruitment numbers. Yet regrettably, we also have the highest casualty rate per capita. Just a few weeks ago, a son of American Samoa, Lt. Col. Max Galea'i was killed while supporting combat operations in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. Last week, I was honored to accompany Max's family, his wife Evelyn and four beautiful children, to American Samoa where Max was laid to rest. The 42-year old commander of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii represented the epitome of a proud military member, and for his dedication and for the dedication of all our service men and women and their families, we must support this bill.

For the sake of their commitment and sacrifice, we must honor our United States Armed Forces by supporting those most important to them, their families. I urge my colleagues to pass H. Con. Res. 295, and I thank you for your support of this very important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM F. "BILL" ROBINSON**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated public servant whose contributions to the residents of my district will live on for many years to come—The Honorable William F. "Bill" Robinson.

Born in Valdosta, Ga., Mr. Robinson spent part of his youth in Miami, where he excelled at baseball. In 1934, he went on to play in the Negro Leagues for the Brooklyn Royals, as a catcher for the team until 1940. His old uniform now hangs in the Negro League's Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

Moved to Buffalo in 1942, Mr. Robinson employed his training as a welder and was recruited to build machine guns at the old Buffalo Arms plant during World War II. He later was employed at International Railway Co., a forerunner to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), for which he was one of the first African-American bus drivers, retiring in 1979 after 35 years of service.

What's most amazing, however, is what Bill Robinson did long after most people retire from active work service. Retired from the NFTA but still active as a Democratic Party activist, Mr. Robinson was appointed to the County Legislature in the mid-1980s, following the death of his son Barry, who had been elected to three terms in his own right.

Mr. Robinson's service in the Legislature for a time coincided with my own service on the

Buffalo Common Council, and while we represented different portions of the city, Mr. Robinson's commitment to his community was on constant display. From 1986 to 1993, Bill Robinson served his constituents with honor, dignity and effectiveness. A quiet man with enormous intelligence, it was an honor to call Bill Robinson my colleague in government. During his time in the Legislature, Bill Robinson served with men and women who would later become members of Congress, State Senators, Members of the State Assembly (including party floor leaders) and many other officeholders.

Madam Speaker, Bill Robinson was a truly dedicated public servant; an individual who touched the lives of everyone he met. The impact he made in Erie County will forever bear his name and legacy. I thank you for joining all of Erie County in expressing to the Robinson family the deepest condolences of the House upon their loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was unavailable to vote and missed the votes on:

H. Res. 1067—Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571) and its significance in the history of both our Nation and the world (Rep. COURTNEY—Armed Services).

H. Res. 1080—Honoring the extraordinary service and exceptional sacrifice of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), known as the Screaming Eagles (Rep. WHITFIELD—Armed Services).

H. Con. Res. 297—Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces. (Rep. ROGERS (AL)—Armed Services).

Although each of those bills passed by an overwhelming margin, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 486, 487, and 488.

IN TRIBUTE TO STEWART R. MOTT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to serve as Co-Chair of the 74-Member Congressional Progressive Caucus in this Congress. In that capacity, I am saddened by the recent death of one of the great progressive leaders and philanthropists of my generation—Stewart R. Mott. Many of us have attended functions and meals at the renowned Mott House across the street from the U.S. Supreme Court. Hosting so many of us so often for progressive causes was just one of the countless ways in which this remarkable man gave of himself and his personal wealth to defend the Bill of Rights and preserve our liberty.

It is not very often that the editorial writers at the Wall Street Journal pay homage to lib-

erals. But that is just what they did a few weeks ago in the following editorial about Stewart Mott under the heading: A Liberal Freedom Fighter.

A LIBERAL FREEDOM FIGHTER

Some people walk to the beat of their own brass band, and so it was for Stewart Mott, the eccentric liberal philanthropist and General Motors heir who died last week at 70 years old. Beloved by Democrats for his decades of charity to progressive causes, he was also a notable champion of free political speech.

In 1968, he was one of a handful of millionaires who bankrolled the primary campaign of Eugene McCarthy, at the time a little-known Minnesota Senator challenging a sitting President. With the help of Mott's \$210,000, that effort became a groundswell that drove Lyndon Johnson out of the race and changed Democratic foreign policy. In our view that change wasn't for the better, but without Mott and other "fat cat" donors, Clean Gene might never have had an impact.

Mott went on to finance the candidacy of George McGovern in 1972. Four years later, he went to court to protect his right to make such contributions, joining Republican Senator James Buckley's challenge to a 1974 campaign finance law in Buckley v. Valeo. Mott and the First Amendment lost that fight, but he would live to see his views vindicated by the political shambles that Congress and the High Court have made trying to limit money in campaigns.

Today, the campaign finance laws have strengthened the incumbents whom Mott loved to challenge, while making political donations less transparent than ever. And today, unlike Mott, George Soros and other wealthy liberal patrons support campaign-finance rules that enhance their own power by limiting others. Stewart Mott was admirably truer to his liberal principles.

IN CELEBRATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC LEADER ALBERT TEGLIA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in celebration of a true humanitarian and community leader, Albert Mario Teglia, who has served his community and our nation for well over half a century as a public employee, elected official and mentor.

Albert Teglia has lived his entire life in San Mateo County. Born in Colma on June 27, 1931, as a teenager he moved to Daly City, a community he would serve with distinction as a Trustee of the Jefferson Union High School District, Daly City Councilman, and Mayor. During his long tenure in public office, Al was widely-respected as a hard worker, unabashed community booster and savvy coalition-builder. I had the privilege of working with Al on many issues, as well as the daunting challenge of opposing him on a handful of others. Whether sitting side-by-side or across the table, Al always earned my complete respect for his thoughtfulness and honesty.

Upon his retirement after 38 years with the San Mateo Union High School District and 26 years in elected office, Al continued his serv-

ice as Legislative Aide to San Mateo County Supervisor Mary Griffin. From there, at the sprightly age of 69, he became a family and children advocate for the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, where he has been instrumental in founding programs such as Jobs for You, which provides employment for young people; the Peddler Program, Children's Fund, and the Italian Catholic Federation's Gifts of Love, which gather donations of cash, household items, food and toys for local families in need; and the Uninsured Children's Dental Program, which finds dentists for children from underprivileged families.

Madam Speaker, how a life this full allows any time for socializing, I can't fathom. But Albert Teglia, true to his Italian heritage, is a man of boundless energy and passion. This is evidenced by his membership in the Italian Catholic Federation, where he served as Grand President and in many other capacities since joining in 1948. It was at the ICF that he met the beautiful and vivacious Frances Foglia, a one-time Sacramento District President who, after decades of friendship, consented to marry the still-handsome Albert when both found themselves newly-single in their later years.

On April 1st of this year, Albert and Frances, both 77 years young, were married. Albert joins Frances' large and boisterous family of two children, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Of all the responsibilities and projects Al has taken on in his busy and productive life, none will be as rewarding, fulfilling (and exhausting) as becoming a new great-grandfather.

But, Madam Speaker, those of us who know Al Teglia know that he will succeed in this new challenge as he has succeeded in every task he has undertaken. He will do it with grace, compassion, intellect and an undeniable charisma. The Foglia family is fortunate to have him join them, just as I am honored to have him as a constituent and proud to call Albert Teglia my friend.

HONORING DANIEL ON THEIR 124TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Florida's oldest child service agency, Daniel, located in Jacksonville.

On July 19, 2008, Daniel will celebrate 124 years of service to Northeast Florida's abandoned, abused and neglected children. Founded in 1884 as The Orphanage and Home for the Friendless and later named for Colonel James Daniel, a well-known community leader who died as a result of his fight against Jacksonville's yellow fever epidemic, Daniel has continued to serve our children and our community uninterrupted since that time.

Over the years, Daniel has served more than 100,000 children, gained national acclaim as a leader in the area of independent living services and offered our children structure, routine and discipline in caring and comfortable facilities where they can learn, live and know that they are valued.

Through its many programs, Daniel works hard to give the children entrusted in its care